



THE UNITED BENEFICE of ST LUKE'S, ENDON with ST CHAD'S, BAGNALL

Encounter, Encourage, Enable ... Committed to Sharing God's Love

www.endonstlukes.org.uk



August 2020

RE-OPENING OF OUR CHURCH BUILDINGS

After what seems a lifetime ago we have now been given a cautious green light to re-open our churches gradually in the safest possible way. Even so there will be some regular members of our congregations who will remain unsure of meeting together again especially if they have been shielding due to certain medical conditions or having the "misfortune" to be over 70 and therefore classed as vulnerable adults. (That's right...nearly all of us!!)



With this in mind Barrie and Sue have been very busy preparing St Luke's to accommodate a maximum of 30 people for a service of Morning Prayer at 9.15am on Sunday, July 26th. Sadly we shall not be allowed to sing and all hand-outs must be taken home with us. Hand sanitiser will be available and masks worn. Arrows have been placed on the tiled floors to guide folk around a one-way system. No

refreshments will be served. See Barrie's message on next page.

Our Archdeacon Ven Matthew Parker has volunteered to preside at a service of Holy Communion at St Luke's on August 2nd at 9.15am.

St Chad's is also re-opening on 26th July for a maximum of 20 people at 10.45am. However, Kath and her team will also produce a YouTube service for those who prefer to remain at home.

PROGRESS TOWARDS APPOINTMENT OF A NEW INCUMBENT

The Archdeacon has spoken to members of the PCC via Zoom. The vacancy will be advertised when Rev Alan and Maryanne have left the parish and when a parish profile has been produced by the PCCs. The vicarage will be let for the duration of the interregnum.

Message from Barrie...

St Luke's Morning Worship on Sunday 26th July at 9.15am

Very obviously things will be just a "little bit" different to ensure compliance with current Church of England guidelines. In broad terms, this comes down to:

- Please wear a mask.
- At the porch door, there will be somebody taking down your details for "Track & Trace"
- Hand sanitiser and tissues will be on the table by the door, please use and throw the used tissue in the bin indicated
- You will be "given" a worship booklet which you retain personally for the service
- You will be "directed" which way to go to your seat and, finally, to leave the church
- The seats will be marked with red and green markers to show where you can sit; obviously family members will sit together
- No singing is allowed, music during the service will be on CD
- At the end of the service, there will be no coffee or refreshments
- The toilets are restricted to the "Disabled" cubicle and, even then, only for use in an emergency
- At all times, "social distancing" applies
- On leaving the church, place the worship booklet in the bin indicated - we will be isolating the ones used for a minimum of 72hrs and using different ones for the next service.

We have carried out a complete Risk Assessment, in compliance with C of E guidelines - a copy of that is posted by the door. You will be confronted with yellow notices at various points, again in compliance with Gov't requirements. If the Gov't / C of E guidelines are altered before the Service in a way which will affect how we ensure compliance, we will obviously let you know straightaway. Oh, and I believe we are still allowed to smile.

If there is anyone you know who does not have internet access, would you please tell them about this?

We are very excited for our first Sunday Worship in St Luke's since March and hope to see you then. It would be helpful if you could let me know whether or not you will be there.

***God bless,
Barrie
on behalf of the Wardens and PCC***

Message from Kath at St Chad's....

Services

We have been doing YouTube services since 12th July and we are opening for Morning Worship at 10.45 on 26th July.

We will continue with this type of service during August on 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd. These services will be limited to 20 people but they will be recorded for YouTube.

Throughout lockdown we have been doing a weekly Bible study on a Thursday afternoon attended by an average of 10 people.

We have a WhatsApp group on which I publish a daily verse and reflection which is also shared on St Chad's Facebook page. On the WhatsApp we also shared pictures, jokes, things we are doing and information just to keep our spirits up.

Contact Kath (phone no on back page) if you would like more information about joining a group or to be sent the link to the YouTube service. James and I have viewed St Chad's YouTube service for the last couple of weeks and can recommend it!

NOW FOR SOME SAD NEWS

When I began working on this newsletter I had no idea that I would be including reports on no fewer than three deaths from among our church family.

First from Kath Howell at St Chad's...

ROGER HAMPSON



I've known Roger for over 50 years and it is possible that I've known him longer than any of the other current members of St Chad's. Roger and Dorothy started to attend Bagnall in 1965 shortly after they were married. I believe the reason was that they wanted to find a new church which would be 'their' church because Dorothy was a Methodist, Roger went to St Philip's in Werrington and

Dorothy thought that was a 'little high'. So St Chad's won! At that time we had a very charismatic, evangelical vicar named David Price and so Roger was brought on board pretty quickly.

It wasn't long before Roger and I were running Pathfinders - a C of E national association for 11 to 16 year olds. This included meeting after church on a Sunday morning, quizzes, sports events etc with other local groups and holiday camps.

He was soon elected on to the DCC and because we were a group of 4 churches that also meant going to the PCC. He became the chairman of both.

Roger felt called to train to be a Lay Reader, I don't know exactly when but Rachel, his daughter, remembers going to Lichfield Cathedral to the Licensing when she was quite young - it would be rude of me to say how old she is now!! He went on to lead many services and he often went to take services at other places like mission halls and chapels particularly on a Sunday afternoon. For many years he took the Evening Prayer at St Chad's until we decided to end it due to low numbers.

To give Muriel and myself a break he kindly took on the responsibility for the August services when he invited his friends or took it himself and he continued to do this until about 4 years ago.

Personally I will miss his friendship, humour and smile. I've been on walking weekends with him and Dorothy and after the walk we indulged in wonderful evening meals - Roger trying nearly every dessert on the trolley!

The really sad part is that he departed this earthly life on his and Dorothy's 55th Wedding Anniversary, I wonder if that's why he held on? There is no doubt we will meet our lovely Christian brother again. God bless him.

From St Luke's....

ERIC MILLWARD

Many folk in St Luke's will remember Eric's wife Rosemary who served as a licensed reader for several years and was founder of our pastoral team. She sadly died in 2010 and since then members of the pastoral team (led by Shirley Brindley) have visited Eric regularly at his home in Knypersley and often taken him out for meals. He spent his early life in the moorland village of Longnor then later flew all over Europe as head of cabin crew for British Airways. He was a real character with a lovely sense of humour and always pleased to see his visitors.



A seriously good poet he had several books of his poems published. Having an aversion to apostrophes in the wrong places he wrote a short and very funny poem to illustrate his point. He was a good singer too being a member of Biddulph Male Voice Choir for many years.

Sadly for the last few years he has battled with ill health and died on 6th July in the Royal Stoke. He will be greatly missed by his friends and family. **Ros**

LES BOULTON

It was a huge shock to receive the news that Les had died in hospital on July 24th. He was well known to the 9.15am congregation at St Luke's where he was



often on duty on the sound desk ensuring that, despite us having no organist, we could still have music to accompany our hymns. We used to joke with him about how his organ playing had improved over the weeks! A Foundation Governor at St Luke's CE Academy he was keen to serve his community at the school which all three of his

children had attended. Having been a bank manager he was a valuable member of the Treasurer Team assisting Sheila Hurst over several years and was a member of the PCC. He and his wife Ann were solid and reliable members of the Warden's team carrying out verger duties at countless weddings, baptisms and funerals and often attended wedding rehearsals. He and Ann came to our weekly bible studies and we were always interested to hear what Les had to say and loved his sense of humour. He was a very thoughtful, kind and wise man and I always imagined him to have been an extremely good bank manager. He loved his garden and encouraged an interest in ornithology in his children who were keen members of the RSPB. Our thoughts, prayers and love go out to Ann, sons Christopher and Tim, daughter Emma and all the grandchildren.

Thank you Lord for Les. **Ros**

The newsletter is published on the church website
www.endonstlukes.org.uk (click on the 'News and Events' tab)



DIOCESE OF
LICHFIELD



Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad

Bishop Clive's Pastoral Letter

TREASURED POSSESSIONS

During this period of lockdown, with no evening meetings to attend, I have been watching more television than before – and have become acquainted with some wonderful programmes, such as The Repair Shop. For those of you who haven't discovered this gem, 'The Repair Shop' is a barn inhabited by the widest range of skilled craftspeople you could ever imagine; able to repair and restore every conceivable kind of object. Every week, four treasured possessions in a terrible state of malfunction or dereliction are brought by their respective owners. And every week four miraculous transformations occur, as the objects are skillfully and lovingly restored to the best possible version of themselves they can be.

What gives the programme its power is the story that is connected with each object, for invariably the possessions are treasured because of the memories associated with them, memories which often link family members from one generation to another.

So when the owner comes to the Repair Shop to collect their restored object and is astounded by the transformation that has been brought about, tears often flow, in the Shop and on the nation's sofas, because in repairing the treasured possession, a treasured relationship has been honoured, strengthened, even brought back to life.

The Repair Shop has caused me to reflect on the way in which relationships can be expressed through inanimate objects, especially in the light of the recent debates about the place of statues and memorials in churches and in other public places.

In truth I have always had a problem with any kind of memorials in churches because all of them, whether commemorating an individual's faithful service

to God or benefaction to the church, are in essence honouring '(wo)man' whereas the whole point and purpose of a church is to honour God. At best memorials are inappropriate distractions, at worst, in the case of the most ostentatious and self-regarding ones, they are surely blasphemous.

The difficulties that arise with statues in public places result from contested views as to who is worthy of honour and of our shared history. As we have seen with the debates sparked by Black Lives Matter, the more that we subject individual lives and past history to scrutiny, the more questions arise. And whoever we put on plinths, philanthropists or generals, nurses or clergy, there is always the possibility that they may one day be judged unworthy, for which of our lives would stand up to the closest examination?

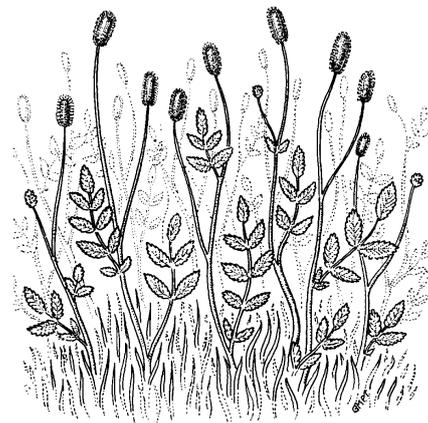
As Jesus said, in response to the rich young man, 'only one is good' - i.e. only God. It is He alone that is worthy of unambiguous honour and praise. He alone who is impervious to shifting moral, cultural and historical perspectives; for He represents absolute goodness, truth and love, which cannot be relativised in any way.

Our churches should be the purest possible conduits for honouring God, and as for our instinctive desire to put people on pedestals... perhaps it is safer and healthier to let them be remembered through cherished objects that have meaning for those who knew them best, warts and all.

Often those who bring objects to the Repair Shop are not looking for a perfect restoration to mint condition, because they want to preserve the original authentic character of the object. They may wish to preserve some imperfections because particular memories are associated with them e.g. a shrapnel-dented helmet that saved the life of their soldier grandfather.

Perhaps that is why the Repair Shop feels a little like church, a place where imperfections are not erased but acknowledged, and worked with. A place where we, through God's grace, can be restored to the best possible versions of ourselves and honoured as God's treasured possessions.

**+ Clive Wulfrun
Bishop of Wolverhampton**



Time to Make Hay

For those of us who love wildflowers, painful decisions are needed in July and August as this is the time to cut our wildflower meadows, whether in the churchyard or elsewhere. Meadows are left to grow long for about 14 weeks during the spring and summer and then cut with scythe or strimmer and raked up. The difficulty arises in that there are always lovely flowers still there when the cut comes, and it is hard to cut them down.

To help with this dilemma, remember that we are copying traditional hay-making, which takes place when grass is still green, vigorous and full of nutrients for stock to eat, but also when the weather is likely to be dry enough to make hay successfully.

But what about the seeds, dropping to the ground for next year's flowers? If we cut down flowers, there won't be seeds? Actually, most species within a traditional meadow are perennial, so they continue to grow from year to year regardless of seeding. This explains why the wildflowers persist in short mown grass in churchyards, providing the grass cuttings are removed so the soil doesn't become too rich for them.

An exception to this is Yellow Rattle which is an annual so grows each year anew from seed. This flowers early and drops its seed in June or early July so won't be lost from the sward by cutting from mid-July onwards.

If you can't bear to cut down late flowering species such as scabious, then leave these patches for later, but do aim to have other meadow areas cut, raked and ready for the autumn fungi by mid-August if you can.

All the best

Harriet Carty,

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor, harriet@cfga.org.uk,
www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk - individuals and groups in the diocese receive
20% members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code Lich19



CANDLE DEDICATIONS for AUGUST

For £2.50 you can keep the Candle of Hope or the Sanctuary Light burning for a week with a dedication. Please contact **Shirley Brindley** on **504089** if you would like a particular date.

Aug	CANDLE OF HOPE	SANCTUARY LIGHT
2 nd	Barbara Brown in loving memory of Harry on his birthday (3rd August)	Barbara Brown in loving memory of Harry on his birthday (3 rd August)
9 th	Anon in memory of Muriel and Graham Salt	In loving memory of Stuart on his birthday (2 nd August). Miss you.
16 th	Sheila and Stan Hurst to celebrate the birthday of their son Paul (15 th August)	Sue Forrester to celebrate the birthday of her son Dan
23 rd	Ina Porter in loving memory of Bob on his birthday (25 th August). Miss you.	Tony Machin in loving memory of a very special wife and mother
30 th	Chris Morgan in memory of a dear friend Gill and her husband Tom	



AUGUST BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to

Caroline Bradshaw (2nd), Margaret Woolliscroft (11th), Rachel Foster (13th), Sylvia Bradshaw (16th)

If you would like your own or a family birthday included here please contact Ros 504137



My dear Dad

ROY HORLEY

celebrated his 104th birthday on Sunday 12th July at Hillswood Lodge Care Home in Endon. He received 20 cards, an e-card and no fewer than 50 messages on Facebook!!

Thank you to all of you who remembered him and a big thank you to the staff at Hillswood Lodge who helped make it a special occasion during this lockdown. Since my Dad was very poorly a few weeks ago I have been allowed to visit him every day (wearing PPE) after testing negative for COVID.

Ros

YOUR CONTINUED GIVING

Thank you to all who are keeping up regular giving. Remember if you use weekly envelopes you may issue a cheque and post it to Sheila Hurst or set up a monthly standing order (not a direct debit as this creates more work for our treasurer). Maryanne has set up a 'Just Giving' link on our website which you could use instead of a standing order. Those who bank on-line may prefer to pay directly into the church account by setting up **Endon St Luke's PCC** as a new recipient*. (**Details from Steve Dale or Sheila Hurst. Phone nos on back page.*)

WEDDINGS and FUNERALS

These services can now be held in church with a maximum of 30 attending. Please direct enquiries to Roger Simpson or Barrie Jackson for St Luke's and Kath Howell for St Chad's. Phone nos on back page.

August Prayer Focus

- Rev Alan and Maryanne that they may have a long and very happy retirement in their new house
- Ian and Karen embarking on a new ministry in Stafford
- Loved ones in our parish who are currently very unwell
- Our church wardens and worship leaders during the interregnum
- Our archdeacon and the appointment of our next incumbent
- The easing of lockdown... that it may not lead to an increase in infections
- The situation in Victoria state in Australia and in our UK city of Leicester where new outbreaks of COVID-19 have occurred
- Racial tensions following the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis
- Those in Bangladesh and parts of India now having to cope with flooding as well as coronavirus
- The dire situation in South American countries and all trying to deal with the problem
- The gradual and safe re-opening of church buildings
- All residents and staff in care homes especially Hillswood Lodge in Endon and Rock Cottage in Brown Edge
- Those suffering from the coronavirus and/or in social isolation
- Those working hard to make sure we are all fed and have access to essential services
- Scientists working round the clock to produce a vaccine and the volunteers brave enough to take part in trials
- Many poor folk in poorer countries who could die of starvation rather than coronavirus in their lockdown situations
- All those whose livelihoods are adversely affected especially those coming off furlough and facing unemployment
- Our government struggling to balance the need to limit the spread of infection with the need to rescue the economy and get folk back to work
- Yemen – the on-going crisis and those trying hard to get aid into the country and the children coming into the USA from Mexico
- The release of Iranian-British mother Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe
- Those affected by the recent upsurge in knife crime
- The widespread drug problem especially in Stoke-on-Trent
- Lou Macari's hostel for the homeless in Hanley
- The problem of the millions of plastic bottles afloat in our oceans and the tons of 'space junk' orbiting our planet
- All who have lost loved ones recently
- The Trussell Trust especially during this time of crisis
- For all who lead worship in our churches each Sunday

Roger Simpson, St Luke's warden / worship leader / PCC chair	01782 502006
Barrie Jackson, reader / St Luke's PCC Sec / Administrator	07510 074097
Sue Forrester, Flower & Craft Club / Foundation gov / Safeguarding Officer	07854 043187
Deb Podmore, worship leader / Connections team	01782 773383
Neil Taylor, worship leader / Connections team	07891 977662
Suzy Jordan, music leader / Connections team	01782 504589
Sheila Simpson, St Luke's Electoral Roll Officer	01782 502006
Ann Boulton, St Luke's warden's team	01782 503162
June Pope, St Luke's warden's team	01782 503269
Lyn Pickering, St Luke's warden's team	07891 213284
Shirley Brindley, candle dedications / pastoral tm	01782 504089
Steve Dale, St Luke's treasurer	07894 098011
Sheila Hurst, St Luke's Gift Aid Sec / MU rep	01782 503622
Linda Foster, Safeguarding Officer	
John & Julie Gater, Chernobyl Children's Project	01782 535000
James Benson, reader emeritus	01782 504137
Ros Benson, newsletter	01782 504137
St Luke's vestry	01782 504864
Kath Howell, St Chad's PCC chair / warden / worship leader / safeguarding officer	01782 304616
Julia Podmore, St Chad's warden / treasurer	07980 802121
Pat Saul, St Chad's PCC vice-chair / secretary	07973 863930
Caryl Siegertsz, St Chad's warden's team / worship team	01782 304616
Muriel Finney, St Chad's worship leader	01782 302229
Peter Millard, St Chad's buildings / warden's team	01782 505338
Emma Ashworth, St Chad's warden's team	07861 730806
Sheila Tipper, St Chad's news contact	01782 534647

For the duration of the interregnum the newsletter will be shorter and available on-line as a PDF attachment and on the church website. Please submit notices by **Tuesday, August 25th**. either by e-mail jandrbenson@btinternet.com or phone 504137.